

# XIII

## The Supremacy of Love

### ROMANS 13:8–10

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

<sup>9</sup> For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup> Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

READ | ROMANS 13:8–10

## THINK ABOUT

The word “owe” means “obligated to do something” for someone. Paul continues to exhort the Christians in Rome to pay all their financial obligations responsibly and to let the only outstanding debt be the one that can never be paid in full — the debt of love. “Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law” (v. 8). This is a love that never stops. Christians are obligated to continually love others and by doing so they fulfill all the requirements of God’s law.

## APPLY

Biblical love always protects truth. It is essential in today’s world for Christians to demonstrate a love which also protects the moral character of God revealed in His law. So both love and truth must be in perfect balance if you are to be an effective witness for the Gospel. This can only be done through the power of the Spirit at work in you.

Spend time meditating on the supremacy of God’s love demonstrated at the cross, and ask for the Holy Spirit’s help so that you can love others the way God desires.

ASK

In our self-centered culture, why is it important to have a healthy balance of both love and truth?

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Would those who know you best describe you as a person that balances love and truth? Or are you more law than love — or all love and no law?

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What can you do to be a more responsible, balanced Christian?

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PRAY

*Father, thank You for Your truth that reveals Your love and that these are never separate. Help me to love others the way You do. Help me to communicate, by both word and deed, the message of love and truth found in the Gospel so that You would be pleased and others might come to know You.*

**DEUTERONOMY 6:4–7**

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”

**MATTHEW 22:36–40**

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

**GALATIANS 5:14**

For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

**SING****“By Our Love” — *Christy Nockels***



## HYMN

*"In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him." — 1 JOHN 4:9*

### Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heav'n to earth come down,  
2. Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry trou - bled breast!  
3. Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all Thy life re - ceive;  
4. Fin - ish then Thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less let us be.

fix in us Thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.  
Let us all in Thee in - her - it; let us find the prom - ised rest.  
sud - den - ly re - turn and nev - er, nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave.  
Let us see Thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee.

Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion; pure, un - bound - ed love Thou art;  
Take a - way our love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;  
Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve Thee as Thy hosts a - bove,  
Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heav'n we take our place,

vis - it us with Thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
end of faith as its be - gin - ning; set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
pray and praise Thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.  
till we cast our crowns be - fore Thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

*Text: Charles Wesley, 1747* 🌿 *Tune: John Zundel, 1870*

The night is far gone; the day is  
at hand. So then let us cast off  
the works of darkness and put  
on the armor of light.

ROMANS 13:12





